

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bleaching formulation comprising the components of:

(a) a peroxy bleaching agent selected from hydrogen peroxide and one of a peroxide and an organic peracid, the peroxide and the organic peracid being capable of generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution;

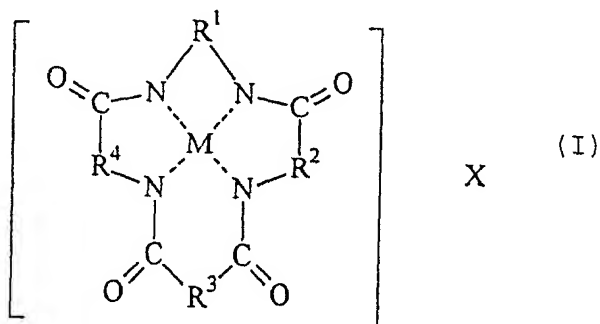
(b) an anionic bleaching activator comprising a metal;

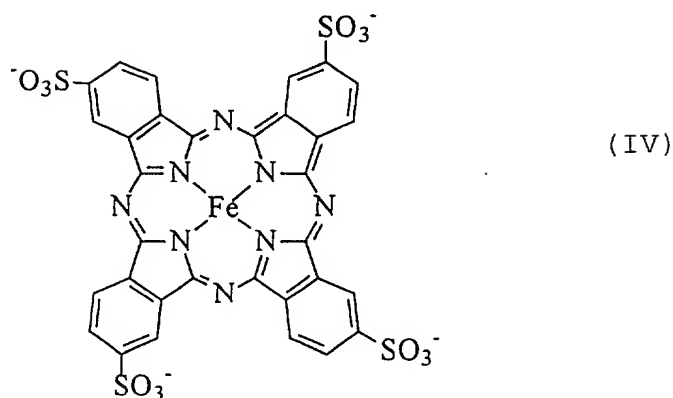
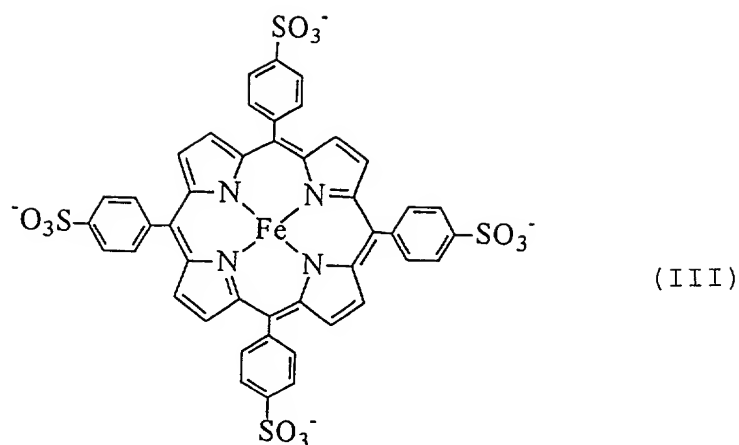
and

(c) a cationic compound.

2. The bleaching formulation according to claim 1, wherein the component (a) is one of sodium percarbonate, sodium perborate monohydrate and sodium perborate tetrahydrate.

3. The bleaching formulation according to claim 1, wherein the component (b) is a complex represented by one of the following formulae (I), (III) and (IV):

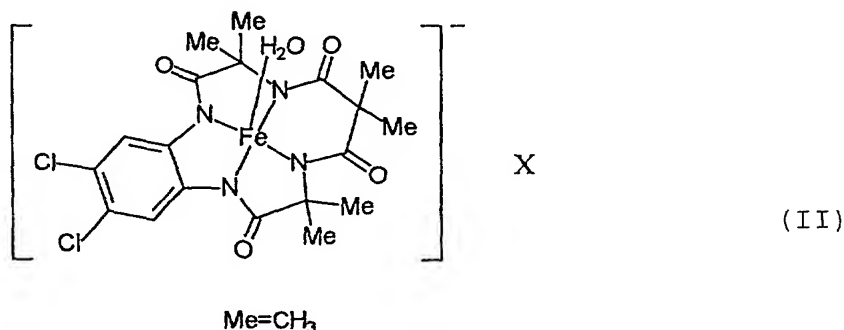




wherein R^1 represents one of a straight-chain alkylene or alkenylene group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylene or cycloalkenylene group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms and a phenylene group; R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently represent one of a methylene group, a straight-chain alkylene or alkenylene group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylene or cycloalkenylene group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms and a phenylene group; R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 may each have a substituent(s) selected from an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy or halogenated alkyl group having up to 8 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an aryl group having a straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl

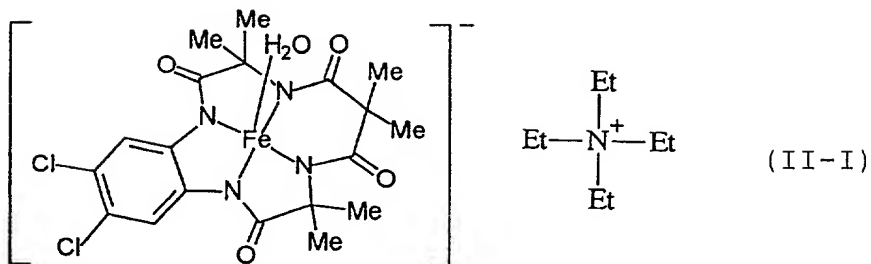
group, a phenoxy group, a halogen atom, an amino group, a sulfuric acid radical, a sulfo group, a nitro group, and a carboxyl group; M represents a metal selected from transition metals having a I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII or VIII-valent oxidized state; and X represents a counter ion in equilibrium with the compound's charges on a stoichiometric basis.

4. The bleaching formulation according to claim 1, wherein the component (b) is a complex represented by the following formula (II):



wherein Me represents a methyl group and X represents a counter ion in equilibrium with the compound's charges on a stoichiometric basis.

5. The bleaching formulation according to claim 1, wherein the component (b) is a complex represented by the following formula (II-I):



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wherein Me represents a methyl group and Et represents a ethyl group.

6. The bleaching formulation according to claim 1, wherein the component (c) is one of a salt of an amino compound and a quarternized amino compound.

7. The bleaching formulation according to claim 1, which comprises from 0.01 to 99% by weight of the component (a), from 0.0001 to 10% by weight of the component (b), and from 0.1 to 99% by weight of the component (c), the weight ratio of the component (a) to the component (b) being from 1 : 1 to 100000 : 1.

8. The bleaching formulation according to claim 1, which further comprises at least one of an alkali, 50% by weight or less of a surface active agent, and 30% by weight or less of a sequestering agent.

9. A method comprising bleaching with the bleaching

formulation according to claim 1, wherein the method is carried out by one of three processes of:

(i) bleaching with a mixture of the components (a), (b) and (c);

5 (ii) pre-treatment with a composition comprising the component (c) and bleaching with a composition comprising components (a) and (b) after the pre-treatment; and

10 (iii) pre-treatment with a composition comprising the components (b) and (c) and bleached with a composition comprising the component (a) after the pre-treatment.

10. A method comprising bleaching with the bleaching formulation according to claim 6, wherein the method is carried out by one of three processes of:

15 (i) bleaching with a mixture of the components (a), (b) and (c);

(ii) pre-treatment with a composition comprising the component (c) and bleaching with a composition comprising components (a) and (b) after the pre-treatment; and

20 (iii) pre-treatment with a composition comprising the components (b) and (c) and bleached with a composition comprising the component (a) after the pre-treatment.